

Message Text

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22

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EUR-12 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W

----- 001288

R 231930Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9990

S E C R E T KINGSTON 333

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, NU, JM

SUBJECT: CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: THE

JAMAICAN VIEW

REF: A) STATE 11313, B) KINGSTON 72

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON, WHO ATTENDED RECENT OAU MEETING, PROVIDED AMBASSADOR JANUARY 22 WITH FOLLOWING JAMAICAN EVALUATION OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

2. THE INITIAL JAMAICAN REACTION TO THE NEWS OF THE MASSIVE DEPLOYMENT OF CUBANS TO ANGOLA WAS "WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE THE CUBANS INTERVENING?" THIS INITIAL CONCERN, HOWEVER, WAS QUICKLY DISSIPATED WHEN THE FACT THAT THE CUBANS WERE REACTING TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION OF OCTOBER 23 BECAME KNOWN. THOMPSON INSISTS ON THE POINT THAT THE ACTIVE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING ONLY TOOK PLACE AFTER SOUTH AFRICA'S ENTRY, ALTHOUGH HE READILY ACKNOWLEDGES THE CUBANS HAVE BEEN ASSISTING THE MPLA FOR YEARS, BUT AS "ADVISORS" (REF B).

3. THOMPSON HAS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE SOVIETS ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED THE CUBAN DEPLOYMENT. INDEED, HE OFFERED

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THE OPINION THAT THE CUBANS COULD NOT HAVE PLANNED AND

EXECUTED SUCH A MOVE WITHOUT THE SOVIETS. WHILE JAMAICA WOULD PREFER NO GREAT POWER INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, IT WOULD APPROVE "A PACT WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF" IF IT WOULD LEAD TO THE DEFEAT OF SOUTH AFRICAN RACISM

4. THE RECENT OAU MEETING, ALTHOUGH INCONCLUSIVE, WAS NOT DESTRUCTIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION AS CLAIMED BY SOME OBSERVERS. THAT LINES OF DIFFERENCE AMONG THE MEMBERS WERE CLEARLY DRAWN WAS IN ITSELF VALUABLE. WHAT UNFORTUNATELY IS OVERLOOKED IS THAT THERE WAS UNANIMITY ON THE DEMAND FOR A SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL. THE DIFFERENCE WHICH EXISTS SOLELY CONCERNS "OTHER" FORCES

5. THE FIGHTING WILL CONTINUE UNTIL AN MPLA VICTORY IS ACHIEVED. THOMPSON WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE EVEN MORE CUBAN TROOPS COMMITTED AND EXPECTS THAT TROOPS FROM SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES WILL ENTER THE WAR SOON IF SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT WITHDRAW. HE STRONGLY HINTED THAT JAMAICA WOULD APPROVE A CONTINUED CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA AFTER A SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL, AS THEY ARE RIGHT NEXT DOOR AND COULD REINVADE ANGOLA UNLESS DETERRED

6. THOMPSON CLAIMED THAT NETO HAD PERSISTED IN THE EFFORT TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE PORTUGUESE LEFT, DESPITE STRONG ADVICE TO THE CONTRARY FROM NYERERE. THE SUBJECT TODAY, HOWEVER, IS COMPLETELY DEAD. FNLA AND UNITA THOROUGHLY HAVE DISCREDITED THEMSELVES BY THEIR ALLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN RACISM

7. ASKED ABOUT CUBA'S IMAGE IN LATIN AMERICA AS A RESULT OF ANGOLA, THOMPSON SAID HE HAD NOT GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT, BUT FELT IT HAD BEEN ENHANCED. BOTH CUBA'S FRIENDS AND FOES IN THE HEMISPHERE UNDOUBTEDLY MUST BE IMPRESSED WITH THE ABILITY DEMONSTRATED TO MOUNT AND EXECUTE SO LARGE AND COMPLEX AN OPERATION. ALL PARTIES TO THE BELIZE DISPUTE PROBABLY ARE ASKING THEMSELVES NEW QUESTIONS TODAY

8. COMMENT: JAMAICA IS PREPARED TO RATIONALIZE VIRTUALLY
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ANY ACTION IN ANGOLA IF IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEFEAT OF SOUTH AFRICA. IN RETROSPECT, THE SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IS EVEN WELCOMED, AS IT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A NEW UNITY OF PURPOSE IN AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD WHICH WILL HASTEN THE ULTIMATE DEFEAT OF APARTHEID. GERARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KINGST00333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760027-0932
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760128/aaaaaypc.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 11313, 76 KINGSTON 72
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA: THE JAMAICAN VIEW
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MOPS, CU, AO, NU, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006